

AMENDMENTS

In the Specification:

On page 1 and before the section entitled "BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION,"

please insert the following new paragraph:

a1 ~~Sub~~
p1 --This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 08/425,185, filed
April 19, 1995 (status pending).--

In the Claims:

~~Please cancel claims 1-46 without prejudice.~~

~~Please add new claims 47-60:~~

~~Sub~~
p1 --47 (New) A method comprising:

a2
determining a target audience of one or more users of devices coupled to a network,
wherein the target audience is determined based on one or more preferences of the users
stored in the respective users' devices; and

providing a coupon to the target audience determined, wherein each coupon may be
used a predetermined number of times, wherein providing a coupon to the target audience
further comprises:

determining a subset of users of the network based on a preference profile;
delivering one or more coupons to the subset of users; and
monitoring redemption of the one or more coupons such that each coupon may be
used a predetermined number of times.

48. (New) The method of claim 47, wherein determining a target audience further comprises:

monitoring network usage by the users;

determining a preference profile for respective users, wherein the preference profile is based on network usage by the respective users; and

selecting a subset of users of the network based on the preference profile.

49. (New) The method of claim 47, wherein determining a target audience further comprises:

determining a preference profile for respective users, wherein the preference profile is based on revealed preferences of the respective users; and

selecting a subset of users of the network based on the preference profile.

50. (New) The method of claim 47, wherein monitoring redemption of the one or more coupons further comprises:

maintaining a coupon database that stores information related to coupons that have been distributed; and

checking the coupon database to determine whether a particular coupon is valid.

51. (New) The method of claim 47, wherein monitoring redemption the one or more coupons further comprises serializing the coupons such that each coupon may be redeemed once.

means for determining a preference profile for respective users, wherein the preference profile is based on revealed preferences of the respective users; and
means for selecting a subset of users of the network based on the preference profile.

55. (New) The apparatus of claim 52, wherein means for monitoring redemption of the one or more coupons further comprises:

means for maintaining a coupon database that stores information related to coupons that have been distributed; and

means for checking the coupon database to determine whether a particular coupon is valid.

56. (New) The apparatus of claim 52, wherein means for monitoring the one or more coupons further comprises means for serializing the coupons such that each coupon may be redeemed once.

57. (New) A machine readable medium having stored thereon sequences of instructions that, when executed by one or more processors, cause an electronic device to:

determine a target audience of one or more users of devices coupled to the network, wherein the target audience is determined based on one or more preferences of respective users stored in the respective client devices; and

provide a coupon to the target audience, wherein each coupon may be used a predetermined number of times, wherein the sequences of instructions that cause the

electronic device to provide a coupon to the target audience further comprises sequences of instructions that, when executed, cause the electronic device to:

determine a subset of users of the network based on a preference profile;

deliver one or more coupons to the subset of users; and

monitor redemption of the one or more coupons such that each coupon may be used a predetermined number of times.

58. (New) The machine readable medium of claim 57, wherein the sequences of instructions that cause the electronic device to determine a target audience further comprises sequences of instructions that, when executed, cause the electronic device to:

monitor network usage of users;

determine a preference profile for respective users, wherein the preference profile is based on network usage by the respective users; and

select a subset of users of the network based on the preference profile.

59. (New) The machine readable medium of claim 57, wherein the sequences of instructions that cause the electronic device to determine a target audience further comprises sequences of instructions that, when executed, cause the electronic device to:

determine a preference profile for respective users, wherein the preference profile is based on revealed preferences of the respective users; and

select a subset of users of the network based on the preference profile.

60. (New) The machine readable medium of claim 57, wherein the sequences of instructions that cause the electronic device to monitor redemption of the one or more coupons further comprises sequences of instructions that, when executed, cause the electronic device to:

maintain a coupon database that stores information related to coupons that have been distributed; and

check the coupon database to determine whether a particular coupon is valid.--